

What is claimed and desired to be covered by Letters
Patent is:

1. A vacuum system for cleaning a motor vehicle
comprising:
 - a) a hollow housing unit which includes
 - (1) a planar first wall,
 - (2) a second wall,
 - (3) a thickness dimension extending between the
first wall and the second wall,
 - (4) a first side wall,
 - (5) a second side wall,
 - (6) a width dimension extending between the first
side wall and the second side wall,
 - (7) a first end wall,
 - (8) a second end wall,
 - (9) a length dimension extending between the first
end wall and the second end wall, and
 - (10) vent holes defined through the first end
wall;
 - b) a first L-shaped mounting flange having a first
leg fixed to the first end wall of said housing
unit and a second leg extending away from the
first end wall in the direction of the length

dimension of said housing unit, the second leg of said first L-shaped mounting flange having a first surface located to be co-planar with the first wall of said housing unit, a second surface spaced apart from the first surface of the second leg of said L-shaped mounting flange in the direction of the thickness dimension of said housing unit, a thickness dimension extending between the first surface of the second leg of said first L-shaped mounting flange and the second surface of the second leg of said first L-shaped mounting flange, and two fastener-accommodating holes defined through the second leg of said first L-shaped mounting flange;

- c) a second L-shaped mounting flange having a first leg fixed to the second end wall of said housing unit and a second leg extending away from the second end wall in the direction of the length dimension of said housing unit, the second leg of said second L-shaped mounting flange having a first surface located to be co-planar with the first wall of said housing unit, a second surface spaced apart from the first surface of the second leg of said second L-shaped mounting flange in the

- direction of the thickness dimension of said housing unit, a thickness dimension extending between the first surface of the second leg of said second L-shaped mounting flange and the second surface of the second leg of said second L-shaped mounting flange, and two fastener-accommodating holes defined through the second leg of said second L-shaped mounting flange;
- d) said housing unit being adapted to be mounted inside the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle using said first and second L-shaped mounting flanges;
 - e) a power cord-accommodating passage defined through the first side wall of said housing unit near the second end wall of said housing unit;
 - f) a power cord door pivotally mounted on the first side wall of said housing unit adjacent to said power cord-accommodating passage;
 - g) a motor unit access passage defined through the first side wall of said housing unit near the first end wall of said housing unit;
 - h) a motor unit access passage door pivotally mounted on said first side wall of said housing unit adjacent to said motor unit access passage;

- i) a hose-accommodating passage defined through the first side wall of said housing unit near said power cord door;
- j) a motor located inside said housing unit near the first end wall of said housing unit, said motor including a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet;
- k) a power cord having a first end, electrically connected to said motor, and a second end, said power cord extending out of said housing unit via said power cord-accommodating passage and further including an adapter plug connected to the second end of said power cord, the adapter plug being sized and shaped to be received in a cigarette lighter receptacle of the motor vehicle and to be electrically connected to a power source associated with the motor vehicle when the plug is received in the cigarette lighter receptacle;
- l) a power cord-winding mechanism located inside said housing unit, the power cord being wound around the power cord-winding mechanism when the power cord is in a stored condition, the power cord being unwound from the power cord-winding mechanism for use, the power cord-winding mechanism including a power cord-biasing mechanism

to bias the power cord winding mechanism into a condition which automatically winds the power cord around the power cord-winding mechanism, the power cord being unwound from said power cord-winding mechanism against the bias of the power-cord biasing mechanism for use; and

m) a vacuum cleaner unit located inside said housing unit and including

- (1) a hose having a first end fluidically connected to the fluid inlet of said motor, and a second end, the hose extending from inside said housing unit to outside said housing unit through said hose-accommodating passage with the second end of the hose being located outside said housing unit when said hose is in use,
- (2) a hose-winding mechanism located inside said housing unit, the hose being wound around the hose-winding mechanism when the hose is in a stored condition, the hose being unwound from the hose-winding mechanism for use, the hose winding-mechanism including a hose-biasing mechanism to bias the hose-winding mechanism into a condition which automatically winds

the hose around the hose-winding mechanism,
the hose being unwound from said hose-winding
mechanism against the bias of the hose-
biasing mechanism for use,

(3) a filter unit located inside said housing unit
adjacent to the fluid outlet of said motor
and adjacent to said filter unit access
passage, the filter unit including

(A) a lint trap unit mounted on said housing
unit and which includes a drawer
slidably mounted on the second wall of
said housing unit, the drawer being
located adjacent to the fluid outlet of
said motor and having an exhaust opening
defined therein, and

(B) a filter element in the drawer, the
filter element being fluidically
interposed between the fluid outlet of
said motor and the exhaust opening of
the drawer of the lint trap unit, and

(4) a plurality of vacuum cleaner attachments,
each vacuum cleaner attachment being adapted
to be releasably and fluidically connected to
the second end of said hose.

2. A vacuum cleaner system for use in a motor vehicle comprising:
- a) a housing unit that is adapted to be mounted in a passenger compartment of a motor vehicle;
 - b) a vacuum system located inside said housing unit and including a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet;
 - c) a hose fluidically connected to the inlet of said vacuum system and extending out of said housing unit;
 - d) a hose-winding mechanism located inside said housing unit and which includes a hose-biasing mechanism that automatically winds the hose into said housing unit when said hose is released, the hose being pulled out of said housing unit against the bias of the hose-biasing mechanism;
 - e) a power cord electrically connected to said vacuum system and which extends out of said housing unit and which includes a plug that is sized and shaped to be received in a cigarette lighter receptacle of the motor vehicle to electrically connect said vacuum system to a power source of the motor vehicle via the cigarette lighter receptacle;
 - f) a power cord-winding mechanism located inside said housing unit and which includes a power cord-

- biasing mechanism that automatically winds the power cord into said housing unit when said power cord is released, the power cord being pulled out of said housing unit against the bias of the power cord-biasing mechanism; and
- g) a filter unit mounted on said housing unit and fluidically connected to the fluid outlet of said vacuum system; and
 - h) a plurality of vacuum cleaner attachments each of which is adapted to be fluidically and releasably mounted on said hose.